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The Weather—Prospects of Crops.

The weather for about two weeks past, has been as fine as man could wish. Never have we witnessed more rapid progress of vegetation, or greater improvement in the appearance and prospects of crops, both in the field and the garden. The wheat crop, although very light and backward, has improved wonderfully in color and is headed out much better than many anticipated. The only danger now is, that owing to its lateness it will be more liable to rust, if the weather should prove warm and moist just before harvest time. The corn crop, which was almost despaired of at one time, is now making great headway, and is almost, if not quite as forward as it was at this time last year—grass will be a full crop, though not fit to cut quite as soon as usual. Oats, potatoes and most kinds of fruit and garden vegetables now promise usual abundance. Who can look abroad upon the beauteous earth, at a time like this, and not find his heart swell with emotions of gratitude to Him who sendeth "the early and the latter rain;" "who causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man."

What can be done for the benefit of Agriculture in Western New York?

In our intercourse among the farmers during the past two months, we have found a prevailing opinion existing that something more must be done for the improvement of agriculture in this region than has yet been accomplished, or the once rich farms and farmers will both together become *poor*, and Western New York will for ever lose that high rank in agriculture which she has hitherto sustained. It is evident to all that the means which have been used have been limited in their benefits. Agricultural papers and societies, as now conducted, although useful to some, have failed to interest or benefit the mass; and much prejudice continues to exist against them, even among those who feel and admit the necessity of something being done. They begin to see, that, with the increased competition of the West, the prices of produce must remain low, while at the same time their lands are fast wearing out, or losing their wheat growing principle, and will soon lose much of their value, unless some new system or articles of cultivation be adopted.

Many other reasons have been suggested why something more effectual should be done, and done soon, but these are sufficient for the present. We have been requested by several farmers to call the attention of our readers to the subject, and to request them to give us their opinions respecting it. They will oblige us by doing so, as they have opportunity, by writing or verbally—more about this next month.

SOWING TURNIPS.

Every farmer who has a vacant spot of good land should sow a patch of turnips. They cost but little labour, produce abundantly in good seasons, and are always valuable either for feeding stock in winter, for the table, or for market. Turnips need rich, light soil, not too dry; new land is commonly preferred, or such as contains a good portion of muck, or vegetable matter.

The time for sowing common English Turnips in this climate is from the 20th to the last of July. The Early Dutch, and the Stubble Turnip, may be sown as late as the 10th or 15th of August. The Scotch Yellow Turnips should be sown about the middle of July; they grow more slowly, and are more firm, consequently keep better for late winter use. Those who have not sown Ruta Bagas, or have lost them, should sow a few Yellow Scotch. We need further experiments with the different kinds of turnips to test their value and adaptation to our climate. Who'll try them?

Turnip seed should be soaked in *tanners' oil* for 24 hours before sowing, then drained and dried by rolling in plaster. This prevents the ravages of the little black fly, and promotes the growth of the young plants. Try it and see.

BUCKWHEAT.

This is the latest sown of all our summer grain crops, and must not be forgotten, or we shall regret it next winter. Buckwheat, as a crop, possesses several good qualities for the farmer. It will grow on poorer soil than almost any other, and if ploughed in when in blossom, it enriches the land. It also clears ground from weeds, by smothering them with its dense foliage. The straw, when well cured, makes excellent hay for milch cows and other cattle, and the grain is valuable for fowls, and, when ground and mixed with coarser food, for hogs and horses, But last and best, and more than all, is, its importance for making *buckwheat cakes*, a table luxury.

Sow from the first to the tenth of July, on dry soil, the mellower the better—half a bushel of seed per acre.

The Slug Worm on Fruit Trees.

(*Tenthredo Cerasi.*)

Fig. 1, Larva, or Slug Worm; 2, Chrysalis; 3, Female Parent Fly.

We are at length able to give a complete history and description of this strange insect, which has of late years been so annoying to nurserymen and fruit-growers in nearly all parts of our country. These slugs, as is well known, feed upon the leaves of pear and cherry trees, (sometimes quince and plum also) often completely destroying the foliage and thereby the fruit, and at the same time preventing the trees from bearing the succeeding year. Besides all this, when the slugs are numerous they fill the air with a sickening odor, and cover the ground with filth; rendering them most unwelcome visitors around a dwelling.

The parent fly is rarely seen, and we believe has never before been described in this country. We copy our description from the London Gardeners' Chronicle, which says, "The *Tenthredo Cerasi* belong to a group called by Dr. Leach *Selandria*, and is supposed to be the *T. Æthiops* of Fabricius and Klug. The female (fig. 3) is of a shining black with a violet tint; the head and thorax are pubescent; the horns are short, pointed, and composed of nine joints; the ovipositor is nearly concealed; the wings are often more or less stained with black; the nervures are darker; the costal margin and stigma are brown; and there are two marginal and four sub-marginal cells in the superior: the anterior legs are brownish ochre, and the others are more or less of that color, but generally much darker, and the thighs, or at least the base, are pitch color."

[The above representation of the Insect is somewhat magnified: the straight lines exhibit the natural dimensions.]

The eggs are usually deposited about the 20th of June, (in Western New York) on the upper side of the leaves, and appear like small shining scales or drops of glutinous fluid dried on to the leaf. In three or four days, if warm weather, they hatch very small larvæ or slugs, of a transparent yellowish color with black heads. They grow rather slowly at first, but in ten or twelve days they change their skin and become of a deep bottle green color, nearly black, and covered with a slimy coat which gives them a moist shining appearance, and protects them from injury by heat or wet, and prevents their being blown off by winds. At first sight, these animals appear like a species of snail or true slug (having no feet,) but on closer examination they will be found to exhibit the typical characters of the family to which they belong, having 6 pectoral and 14 abdominal feet. The thorax is dilated, being much thicker than the rest of the body and nearly concealing the head. (fig. 1.) They feed entirely on the upper side of the leaves, consuming the parenchyma, or green fleshy part, leaving the nerves and under cuticle; thus giving the trees a singular scorched appearance.

In about four weeks they attain their full growth, (say two-thirds of an inch in length) then change their bottle green jacket for a suit of buff or brown, and no longer appear smooth and slimy but rough and wrinkled. In a few days more they stop feeding, curl up as though dead, and fall to the ground, then enter beneath the surface and make a cocoon of silk, coated with earth, (fig. 2) within which they remain dormant for about ten months, then arise with wings again and renew the race.

After one crop have passed away in this manner, a second usually appears in August, but not so numerous as the first. These are supposed to be a distinct family, the parents of which do not appear till two months later than the others—but we need further observation on this point.

It is not more than eight or ten years since we first saw or heard of these insects in the United States; but the London Gardeners' Chronicle says, "these or a similar larvæ threatened to destroy the Pear, Quince, Plum, and Cherry trees in North America at the close of the last century, as many as thirty being found upon one leaf." Who can tell us when and where?

REMEDIES.—Various means have been used for ridding fruit trees of these Slug Worms. The most simple and common method in nurseries and on low trees, is dusting the leaves with fine dry ashes or lime, which adheres to their slimy coats and kills them. This should be applied during their early stages, and will need to be repeated several times, as some of the worms will recover by changing their skins. Sprinkling the trees with tobacco water, or lime water, or soap-suds, has also been recommended; but the most effectual remedy is the use of *whale oil soap;* a new chemical compound, of trifling expense, which appears to be very offensive to the whole insect tribe, and promises much aid to horticulture. The mode of using is as follows: Dissolve two quarts (or 4 lbs.) of soap in a pail of hot water; mix this in half a barrel of cold rain water; sprinkle the trees with it morning and evening, with a garden syringe, or a small watering pot. If the suds is not found to be strong enough to kill the worms, add more soap, as there is considerable difference in its quality.

These Slugs have now (June 28th) just commenced their annual operations in some of the gardens in Rochester, and speedy and effectual means should be used to rid our fruit trees of this vile pest. The whale oil soap and syringes for sprinkling high trees, may be obtained at the Seed Store.

Complete Success of the Silk Culture and Manufacture in Ohio.

There are some farmers in our land who still feel disposed to sneer at, and treat with contempt, the whole subject of silk cultivation; and others who really desire to have it succeed, but still feel so little confidence in the enterprise, that they are unwilling to lend a helping hand, or to speak an encouraging word, to those who are labouring in this good American cause. Such persons we earnestly entreat to read the following letter from the superintendent of Mr. Gill's extensive establishment at Mount Pleasant, Ohio, and then act according to the suggestions contained in the pre-

factory remarks of the Editor of the Burlington Silk Record:

"The silk enterprise needed nothing more to ensure a large and steady profit but the combination of capital and skill, which combination in the cotton and woollen manufacture is the true secret of their great and uniform success. No more signal illustration of the truth of this position could be found than the silk manufactory of Mr. Gill. He possesses in himself both capital and skill; but apparently not satisfied with his own qualifications, he has wisely added to it the practical knowledge and experience of Mr. Fox, who is a native of England, brought up to the silk manufacture, and eminently qualified to carry out practically and profitably the glorious enterprising spirit of Mr. Gill. Under all the disadvantages attending the establishment of such a business in a small town in Ohio, that business has nevertheless paid an annual profit of ten per cent. on all the capital invested. The first difficulties overcome, that ten per cent. must soon advance to twenty and thirty, and that, too, on a business which in this country cannot be overdone. The same profitable result of the combination of capital and skill has been realized at Economy, where they last year produced between five and six hundred pounds of reeled silk.

"Accompanying Mr. Fox's letter were various specimens of the silks manufactured at Mount Pleasant. They consist of velvet of rare softness and beauty; sewing-silk which we should think could not be surpassed by any manufactory in the world; figured silks of seven different patterns, for dresses, plain silks, satin, tram, organzine and thrown silk, the colors of the whole being as rich and brilliant as can be found in any importer's warehouse. If American citizens would only take hold of Mr. Gill's silks as they ought to—if they would refuse to buy the foreign while they can get his—if every western belle would have her wedding dress of Mr. Gill's manufacture, and every groom imitate so glorious an example, new life and energy would be infused into their operations, by showing the public appreciation of an enterprise whose far-reaching consequences will most beneficially affect all future generations of our country. Such a preference is due to Mr. Gill, and such repudiation of the pauper labor of Europe is the only kind of repudiation which high-souled American citizens should practise.

"'*Mt. Pleasant, Jefferson Co., Ohio, Mar. 6*, 1843.

"'E. MORRIS.—Sir,—Mr. Gill, with myself, have to acknowledge the receipt of your valuable little book, *The Silk Record*, and herewith enclose you our subscription, with a few samples of Ohio manufactured silks, whereby you may be able to judge and form your own opinion how we stand, as relates to color, quality, and firmness of texture, when compared with imported articles. In reading your Record, with other publications, I find many complain there is not any known market for reeled silk and cocoons, when produced: these, with remarks in public print, call for some few observations in behalf of Mr. Gill and his silk establishment, as organized in Mount Pleasant. For public information I would say, Mr. J. W. Gill has been establis ed about five years, and, to use his own words, to the legislature of Ohio, last year, says, "Having been influenced by much reflection on these subjects, and the great benefit that would accrue to my country, if it could be brought in successful and practical operation, in a systematic manner, I concluded to devote a portion of my time and capital to a practical test of the business, which for four years I have pursued through all its various ways; first, in purchasing and planting Florence, Italian, and Multicaulis trees, to the extent of 3 acres; built and constructed 3 cocooneries on various parts of my farm, &c." He has raised over 3,000 lbs. of cocoons, constructed a silk reeling, throwing, and weaving factory, three stories high, worth about $1,600, also a 6-horse steam engine, together with 8 looms for broad silks, besides 2 stocking looms, throwing and winding machines to the amount of about $4,500 dollars, and manufactured all the samples sent you, with many other articles, samples of which I have not by me at this time. Mr. Gill is about constructing one of the most improved and largest throwing machines in the United States, having retained the services of E. Harris, a practical machinist, for this purpose; after which Mr. G. intends to launch largely into the ribbon business, being satisfied a return of 10 per cent. can be made, with a prospect of something more handsome, as our hands and machinery get improved; and for the satisfaction of the industrious silk-growing public, I announce, Mr. Gill has purchased, and continues still to purchase, all reeled silk or cocoons sent or brought here from all parts of the United States; the price for good reeled silk of 8 or 10 fibres, $5 to $6 per lb., according to the size and regularity of the thread. Cocoons, from $3 to $4 per bushel, according to the quality and age; cut out and imperfect at 50 cents per bushel, half cash, half domestic goods, if required. And I trust the silk growers, into whose hands your useful little book may fall, will no more say, after reading this letter, "Where shall we find a market?" Those who know Mr. Gill, know him as a business gentleman, with his father, Mr. Joseph Gill, before him—know they are gentlemen whose word has never been disputed, however bad the times may be. I would say, send or bring your cocoons, and try them; one visit to this establishment will remove all doubt, however sceptical a person may be. We often have instances of this in Mount Pleasant; many opulent gentlemen, who occasionally visit this establishment, have been astounded to behold the factory turning out goods to such perfection, in the back woods, and among the stumps of Ohio. Come at any time from May to September, and we will show you the whole process through, from the silk-worm to the weaver, as much as you could see in Europe, though perhaps in miniature, but still a pledge of what will be at no distant day. In the factory you will see daily six reels in operation; on the second floor you will see all the various operations of preparing the silk for the loom—as winding the raw and dyed silks, throwing singles, organzine, and tram, doubling and cleaning—constantly in operation the year through. Go to the adjoining buildings, the basement floor of which is employed as a machine shop, in which you can see some of Dr. White's patent reeling and throwing machines for domestic use. Messrs. Gill and Harris have purchased the right of 72 counties. More useful machines cannot be made, performing five operations at one time. On the 2d and 3d floors you will find various articles being made, as the time and fashions call for—as four-thread Genoa velvet, hat plush, plain and figured floss silks, tissue, florentine, and satins; 3 and 4 thread mantuas and serges, slight and strong satin, strong florentine, 28 inches wide, for gentlemen's coating; figured velvet, figured and plain parasol silks, black and brocaded cravats, and bandanas of various colors. Mr. Gill has in contemplation making some heavy 8-thread flowered damask at an early day, having recently purchased a Reginear, on an entire new plan, the first of the kind in the United States, for cutting cards to any pattern, to suit the improved French Jacquard loom. Our stocking looms are constantly in operation, making black and colored silk gloves, white and colored mittens, silk stockings and socks, under drawers and shirts, and entire suits of flesh-color, crimson, black, and other colors, for the theatrical gentlemen, all of which have been imported from France, till recently. Mr. Gill employed upwards of 42 hands the whole of last summer, of various ages, from nine to 16 years of age, besides one overlooker and two superintendents; wages from $1 to $3 50 per week, each one finding himself in board and lodging. The cost of the cocoons was about $2 20 per bushel, when all was paid, with a prospect of coming under that this year. Mr. Gill purchases cocoons from various parts, as Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Tennessee, with a few from some other states—all going to prove what may be done. We have no premium in this state, at this time; we sadly want one to stimulate our farmers onward, and to pay them for those little mishaps incident to a new undertaking. If there was a silk factory in every county, it would be some time before they could do more than supply our own consumption. Ohio would save within herself about $1,200,000 yearly, about which amount she annually imports. I think our widows and orphans would have much reason to be thankful for this new and respectable branch of business. Several in this vicinity acknowledge gratitude to Almighty God that ever Mr. Gill was the honored instrument of commencing and carrying on a trade, whereby they obtain a respectable and honest livelihood, while many, in towns not far distant, cannot obtain employment suitable to their capacity on any terms.

"'I find, in a report of the select committee of the House of Representatives of Ohio, dated Feb 24, 1842, to which had been referred numerous petitions and memorials on the culture of silk, that our exports and imports, from 1833 to 1841 inclusive, were, exports $923,340,381; imports $1,096,111,024; in which will be seen that the balance against us in eight years is $172,270,000: to this enormous extent there was a debt created against us. We bought more than we sold, and to pay this debt the precious metals were drawn out of this country, and the necessary result was, pecuniary embarrassment. During the period above named, we imported silk and silk mixed goods to the amount of $105,992,000, or nearly $18,000,000 annually, all of which might be raised and manufactured at home. The importation of silk is one fourth more than any other article! How important it is, then, that the public attention should be called to this subject, from time to time.

* * * "'With respect, &c.,

"'JOHN FOX, Jr."

A PIG TALE.

FRIEND BATEHAM,—Once upon a time I called upon my friend, A. B. Allen, Esq., of Buffalo; and, looking over his stock of beautiful hogs, my attention was directed to a little bit of a black China sow, which, from some cause, had not attained more than two-thirds their usual size, small as they usually are. She was a cunning, funny looking little cub as you ever saw. I asked Mr. A. his price for her; when, with his more than usual pleasant smile, which plainly indicated to me that he knew his customer, he said he "did not like to sell her, because she was such a *cunning looking* little fellow; but if it was any object to me, I might take her at *thirty-five dollars!*" I did so, and can assure you she was cheap stock to me; for I have sold many fine litters of pigs from her at a good price, crossed by a large Berkshire boar. During the month of October, 1841, I took one of her pigs from my farm to my residence, and put it in a pen with a scrub which I picked up, of the same age. They were fed together at the same trough—fed no grain or meal—only the slop from my kitchen during the winter, and the following summer with the range of a good pasture in addition. In the fall of 1842, when I wanted to put them up to fat, the scrub was as tall as the China, but not judged to be half as heavy; and in endeavoring to take them up, legs outran me several times; when I put my dog on to him, and they took it up and down the pasture a few times; when legs began to think that although *he* had the head, the *dog* had the bottom. So he made for the fence; and when within about eight feet, gave a leap, *turned himself sideways*, and went through the rails at a bound—the knot which had been tied in his tail to prevent such disaster, having previously untied! I put up my China, and fatted two weeks only with corn; and when dressed, weighed 236 pounds, being fifteen months old.

My intention was to have fatted them together, and then show the difference in weight; but while feeding them from time to time, I was convinced that no fair trial could be made while feeding them together; for the ravenous brute of a scrub could eat as fast as he could run; and when the pail was emptied, he would place his scoop-shovel of a snout at one end of the trough, and push it through to the other, taking every tit-bit of the whole feed; and I firmly believe that he generally ate one-third more than his more orderly and decent companion. I shall never take the trouble to try another experiment of this kind, unless I can hire it done; for I dislike these self-balancing brutes, (that is, head and neck heavy as rest of body, and balance on fore legs,) so bad that no money would tempt me to feed one of them long enough for him to fat.

Truly Yours, J. W. SMITH.

Maumee City, O., May, 1843.

For the New Genesee Farmer.

Moral Responsibility of Farmers.

Great efforts are now making to induce the people to put a true value on the science and practice of agriculture. For this purpose the press, which, outstripping CÆSAR, has attained to universal empire, labors incessantly. To this end, Agricultural Societies, Fairs, and Shows, contribute. They excite emulation among farmers and horticulturists; and often call forth great exertions by appealing to their pride, self-respect, and love of approbation.

All this may be well, for the Maker of man has made nothing in vain. Every faculty of the human mind, every sen-

timent, passion, and feeling, has its work to perform. But I submit it, whether there are not considerations that should induce us to make an appeal to the noblest part of man, *his sense of duty and moral obligation*. It is our reproach abroad, what the American character is not distinguished for probity. But if we should grant what is probably true, that even in this respect we are in advance of our neighbors, it would still be evident that we have great improvements to make on the score of public and private morals. As a moral and intellectual people, we ought to be immeasurably above the notions that are subjected to the corrupting influences of an aristocracy and a hierarchy.

No doubt our national vanity has been quite enough *excited*, and it will now be well if our political and agricultural Neurologists will see what they can do on the score of conscientiousness. Men are to be judged of by the motives that govern their conduct. If considerations, well enough in themselves, come to have an undue prominence—if certain passions are too much excited, we have a one-sided, imperfect, and of course vicious character.

It may well be doubted whether any station is attended with greater responsibility, or has a wider sphere of usefulness than that which the farmer occupies. Upon his good management, men, women, and children, the world over, depend for bread—for *life*. The former is the pioneer in every new country. He gives it character. Upon him, almost alone, depends the rapidity of its settlement, and the extent of its improvements. But in old countries where the population presses hard upon the means of subsistence—where a short crop plunges millions into want, and subjects multitudes to all the agonies of starvation, it is no slight offence to dissipate the fruits of the earth, through idleness, inattention, or inexperience. It may be no easy matter to calculate the value of a sheaf of wheat, or a few blades of grass. The beneficent Creator of all things, demands of us that we be faithful stewards, and make a proper use of all that is committed to our charge.

Here is a man who owns several farms; and they are suffered to run to waste, because he does not find it convenient to give them the requisite attention, or perhaps he is careless of their improvement because he does not need their avails. He can draw upon his bank deposites, or call in his loans upon bond and mortgage. What matters it to him whether he reaps an abundant harvest, or adds in any way to the store which supplies orphans with bread. On this subject there is a prevalent and most pernicious error. If a man is rich, he is thought amenable to no law, human or divine, so far as a productive investment of his means is concerned. But, whether rich or poor, let us feel that we are under the strongest of all possible obligations to regard the welfare of the great human family, the meanest of whom are as much the objects of the divine regard as ourselves.

It has been wisely said that he is a public benefactor who causes two blades of grass to grow where there was but one before. What, then, shall be his claims to distinction, who increases four-fold the productions of his farm? And yet, several years experience and observation have convinced me that nearly every farmer may do even more than this. It is impossible to estimate the loss that accrues to our farmers, I should rather say to the country and the world, from sowing and reaping too late in the season—from not selecting a crop suited to the soil—from plowing land that ought seldom or never to be plowed, such as hills and wet ground—from doing work to the halves—from not providing good racks for sheep and cattle to eat from, and warm shelters for every animal that has or inclines to have warm blood—from not having large orchards to supply apples of *a good variety*, the cheapest and best of all food for man and beast—from not digging about, dunging, and pruning all fruit-trees—from not taking the "stitch in time"—from spending money in building large, inconvenient houses, with rooms and furniture that are never to be used, buying fine carriages and fine clothes with the means that ought to be expended in getting good tools, good stock, choice clean seed, and all the little conveniences that go to make the difference between good farming and bad. That we are ignorant concerning our own mismanagement or the way to amend, is our crime and not our excuse. This piety and patriotism which manifests itself in words and not in works, must be condemned by all good men.

Let public sentiment be made right on all these subjects—let the idle spendthrift, whether rich or poor, be treated as his crimes deserve—let the gaping multitude reserve their plaudits for the intelligent, moral, hard-working farmer or mechanic who has not forgotten his relationship to Adam's children, and who recollects that mortals have bodies as well as souls to save. If we would speedily develope the resources of this garden of the world, called the United States, we must be particularly careful to confine our farming operations within proper limits. If a person *must* manage a large farm, he will do well to keep much of it in pasture and meadow. If he rents these at so much per acre, the price will be his clear profits; or if he keeps stock, he will be able to use more acres to advantage, than he would if he resorted to plowing for other crops, especially if he chooses to cultivate a great variety. Many farmers would do well to let out their land to be cultivated on shares by their poor neighbors; and by being liberal as to the terms, and especially by setting a good example themselves, they may insure in this way, a proper cultivation, and greatly relieve themselves, and oblige others. But the main object of this article is, to impress upon farmers the *absolute duty* of rendering their land as productive as possible, that the starving population of our cities and villages may be fed and clothed, and our brothers and sisters across the Atlantic supplied with that which will prolong existence and make it a pleasure to live. H. S. B.

Maple Grove, Wyoming Co., June 1843.

PROFITS OF GOOD TILLAGE.

Mr. Editor,—There is one thing which we, farmers, do not enough consider. We are apt to think that the man who raises twice as much as his neighbors, from the same land, gets just twice the profits. But this is not so. We will suppose that the man who gets ten bushels of wheat from the acre, clears two dollars per acre. Now if he should double his crop and get twenty bushels, his profits would be (after deducting the extra expense of threshing and marketing this increased quantity,) not less than *ten* dollars from the same amount of land, provided he gets an average price for his wheat. Here his profits are increased five-fold. Of those who begin the world with equal advantages, some rise to competence or wealth, and others descend to poverty and want. It is, many times, simply because the former gets twice the crop which the latter gets. Where the same labor is expended, there is frequently all of this difference between early and late sowing. The late sowing always costs the most, and generally *does not yield half as much*.

Probably one-half of the wheat throughout the country does not yield ten bushels to the acre: certain it is that a large portion makes no dividend—the crop is consumed in the tillage. We will suppose that eight bushels will just cover the expense of raising. Now I will venture to say that if we expend twice the labor and means on the same land, say eight dollars in plowing, dragging, and sowing, and eight in manuring, we may get twenty bushels—yielding a profit of four dollars to the acre, or more or less as the case may be.

But the advantage of good tillage is principally felt by succeeding crops. No care in tillage can make up for an injudicious selection of the crop which we put on to the land. How long will it be before farmers will cease to plant corn on cold, wet ground; or potatoes on a dry, hard soil? Indeed, every variety of the same seed has its peculiarities, which we are too careless to regard. U. T. B.

Albany, June, 1843.

CONVENTION OF BREEDERS.

(CIRCULAR.)

The State Agricultural Society of New-York, desirous that some fixed principles should be established as the basis of excellence in the various descriptions of farm stock, (without reference to their *relative* merits as breeds,) have appointed the undersigned a committee, with instructions to call the particular attention of breeders throughout the States, to the importance of the subject, and to make the necessary arrangements for a Convention to be held at the Library Room of the American Institute, in the city of New-York, during its 16th Annual Fair, in the month of October next, the day to be hereafter noticed, at which breeders of stock and those interested in agriculture are most respectfully urged to give their attendance, with a view to a full and free discussion of those forms, qualities, and properties which most conduce to intrinsic value; and also that the distinctive characteristics of each separate breed may be as closely defined as possible.

The Society believe that the decision of such a meeting will offer to the agriculturist the best information that can at present be elicited; and which, they trust, may be considered so satisfactory to the mind of every intelligent breeder, as to lead to greater uniformity of action and opinion, and *possibly* become a standard with them, by which to judge and be judged, in all cases of competition.

With these views of the subject, the committee hope you may deem it of sufficient importance to be present at the Convention, and lend to its discussion the aid of your experience and talents.

The committee will be obliged by any suggestions in the interim, you may consider it of importance to be communicated to them in relation to this subject. Francis Rotch, C. N. Bement, E. P. Prentice, George Vail, Lewis F. Allen.

To the Stock Breeders of the State of New-York, or elsewhere.

I will enter for a sweepstakes, ten dollars entry, a three-quarter bred Short-Horn Steer 5 years old in May, 1843, fed while a calf on skimmed milk, and poorly at that; and after three months old, with nothing but grass and hay till three years old; and since then, wintered on straw, with common pasture in summer. He has never been fed a bushel of grain or roots, and has run out doors. I will show him against any animal of *common* breed, at the State Fair in Rochester, in September next, to *prove* that *grade* Short Horns will bear hardship and rough keep equal to the native cattle, and retain their superiority of points. He was sired by a thorough bred Short Horn Bull.

I will also show a two-years-old thorough-bred Short-Horn heifer, kept in the same manner, except sucking her dam for four months, which run out in the straw-yard through the severe and long winter, against any *native* heifer of like age, (two years old, June, 1843,) and for the same sum. Both animals to be judged by one of the cattle-committee selected by the Society. Lewis F. Allen.

Black Rock, May 6, 1843.

P. S.—Any person wishing to compete with me in this challenge, will send notice to Luther Tucker, Esq., Secretary of the Society, Albany. It is understood that no animal thus exhibited, is to be fed any thing but grass in good pasture. *Cult.*

Raising American Thorn from Seed.—Inquiry.

Mr. Editor,—Wishing to say a few words in your valuable paper, I will take your hint to "be short." What I wish to say is: If you will promulgate the secret of propagating the native American Thorn from the seeds, I will send a goodly list of subscribers to your paper. And, let me add, is not the hint that Nature has given us in making this Thorn shrub to grow spontaneous in almost every climate of our country, sufficient to induce us to inquire what is its use?

If you will comply with my proposal, I will speak out for dame Nature and answer the inquiry.

Nature's Friend.

Hosick Falls, May 28, 1843.

We know of no means by which the thorn seeds can be made to vegetate with any certainty the first year after sowing. If any of our readers do, they will oblige us by making it known.—Ed.

Blight in Pear Trees.

We have received a letter from M. B. Sherwood, of Norwalk, Ohio, stating that he recollects having seen in our paper, several years ago, a reward offered for the discovery of the cause of the blight in pear trees; and that he has discovered said cause beyond a doubt, and if the horticultural society are still in suspense, they can obtain the long-sought information on application to him.

We think Mr. Sherwood is mistaken in supposing that any such reward was offered in our paper, or by any society in this region. There was a large reward offered some ten or fifteen years ago by the Philadelphia Horticultural Society, for the discovery of the cause, cure and preventive of this disease, but we believe the reward was never claimed, and we do not now suppose it ever will be.

The cause of the disease was for many years a matter of dispute, and is so still by some persons, but the majority are now fully convinced that it is the work of an insect (*Scolytus pyri.*) In a late number of the Massachusetts Plow-

man we find an excellent article on this subject, which we annex. It is written by an eminent entomologist, and gives full instruction on the cure as well as the cause of the evil. If Mr. SHERWOOD can show that this is not the true cause, we really hope he will do so; and if he can offer any more simple and effectual remedy, we will promise him, as a reward, the thanks of a thousand grateful hearts, and the high enjoyment which a noble mind derives from the consciousness of having conferred a lasting benefit on his countrymen.

From the Massachusetts Plowman.

THE BLIGHT BEETLE.

Dear Sir:—The insects contained in the branch of the apple-tree, which you submitted to my examination, are the same as those which produce the sudden withering of the leaves and the death of the limbs of the pear tree, an affection commonly called fire-blight. The discovery of the blight-beetle in the limbs of the apple-tree is a new fact in natural history, but it is easily accounted for, because this tree belongs not only to the same natural group, but also to the same genus as the pear tree: it is not, therefore, surprising that both the pear and the apple-tree should, occasionally, be attacked by the same insects.

The piece of the apple-tree branch, now before me, measures twenty-eight inches in length, and is three quarters of an inch in diameter at the lower end. Its surface bore the marks of twenty buds, thirteen of which were perforated by the insects above named; and, from the burrows, I took twelve of the blight beetles in a living state, the thirteenth having been previously cut out. This goes far towards confirming my remarks on these insects, published in the fifth volume of the "New England Farmer," page 171, where you will find the following statement: "A whole limb may swarm with them; every bud may conceal the place of their operations, without exciting a suspicion of their presence." For their history I might have referred you to the various published communications of Mr. Lowell and Professor Peck, who have described the agency of these insects in producing the "disease in pear trees," or, to my own remarks on the same subject, in the "N. England Farmer," and in the "Treatise on Insects injurious to Vegetation," a book that has been more praised than read; but experience has taught me that line upon line and precept upon precept, are needed to keep the attention of the public directed to the depredations of insects. Allow me therefore to extract for you, the following passages from the last named work.

"The grub or larva of the insect eats its way inward through the alburnum or sap-wood into the hardest part of the wood, beginning at the root of a bud, behind which probably the egg was deposited, following the course of the eye of the bud towards the pith, around which it passes, and part of which it also consumes; thus forming, after penetrating through the alburnum, a circular burrow or passage in the heart-wood, contiguous to the pith which it surrounds. By this means the central vessels, or those which convey the ascending sap, are divided and the circulation is cut off. This takes place when the increasing heat of the atmosphere, producing a greater transpiration from the leaves, renders a large and continued flow of sap necessary to supply the evaporation. For the want of this, or for some other unexplained cause, the whole of the limb above the seat of the insect's operations suddenly withers, and perishes during the intense heat of midsummer. The larva is changed to pupa, and subsequently to a little beetle, in the bottom of its burrow, makes its escape from the tree in the latter part of June or the beginning of July, and probably deposits its eggs before August has passed. This little beetle is only one-tenth of an inch in length: it is of a deep brown color, with the antennæ and legs rather paler, or of the color of iron-rust. The thorax is short, very convex, rounded and rough before; the wing covers are minutely punctured in rows, and slope off very suddenly and obliquely behind; the shanks are widened and flattened towards the end, beset with a few little teeth externally, and end with a short hook; and the joints of the feet are slender and entire."

"The minuteness of the insect, the difficulty attending the discovery of the precise seat of its operations before it has left the tree, and the small size of the aperture through which it makes its escape from the limb, are probably the reasons why it has eluded the researches of those persons who disbelieve in its existence as the cause of the blasting of the limbs of the pear-tree. It is to be sought for at or near the lowest part of the diseased limbs, and in the immediate vicinity of the buds situated about that part."

"The remedy, suggested by Mr. Lowell and Professor Peck, to prevent other limbs and trees from being subsequently attacked in the same way, consists in cutting off the blasted limb *below* the seat of injury, *and burning it before the perfect insect has made its escape.* It will therefore be necessary, carefully to examine our pear-trees daily, during the month of June, and watch for the first indication of disease, or the remedy may be applied too late to prevent the dispersion of the insects among other trees."

We are now to look for the disease and its cause in the apple as well as in the pear tree, and should not delay to cut off and burn the infected limbs, as soon as the leaves begin to wither. Yours respectfully,

CAMBRIDGE, June 1, 1843. T. W. HARRIS.

New Genesee Farmer.

ROCHESTER, JULY, 1843,

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

We learn that some of our friends in Ohio feel a little slighted, because we have not published any notes of our tour among them last winter. Sorry for it: we have lots of memoranda intended for the purpose, but since our limits have been reduced, we have concluded not to insert them. Our Ohio friends need not feel bad, however, for perhaps they would not feel flattered by the remarks we should make.

It may also be well to state, that we do not propose to publish any detailed account of our rambles this summer, though we expect to gather up many scraps of knowledge, to be used as occasion may require.

Our readers will, no doubt, be disappointed (as we are) at not finding a letter from MR. COLMAN this month. We can only account for the delay by supposing, that he is in such a state of rapturous bewilderment that he has for a time forgotten us. We shall look out for his "first impressions" by the next arrivals. The article in this paper on Premium Farms was prepared by him.

We tender H. S. B. a welcome to our columns—hope we shall hear from him again.

PLOUGHBOY is referred to the series of letters on Scientific Agriculture, published in last year's volume of this paper. See the one on p. 114, for remarks on Guano, &c.

E. S. G.'s experiment in making sugar or molasses from corn stalks, sown broadcast, we think was not sufficiently extensive or exact to prove anything of value.

The Single-Horse Power Machines inquired for last month are manufactured by Hussey & Burgess, Auburn, N.Y. The price, without the thrasher, is $90; with the thrasher, $115. We will give more information, and perhaps an engraving of them, next month.

REMARKS TO FARMERS' SONS are again crowded out.

ON MAKING AND PRESERVING BUTTER.—No answer has been given to the request in our last—try again.

"MARIA" is too roguish, and her communication too personal, to gain admission. We suspect it is a *hoax*.

N. Y STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of the Executive Committee is appointed to be held at the Eagle Hotel, in this city, on Wednesday the 12th inst., at 9 o'clock, A.M., for the purpose of appointing the judges, and making arrangements for the coming Fair.

Notices of Publications.

THE POMOLOGICAL MAGAZINE is the title of a new work on fruits, commenced June 1st, 1843, at Cincinnati, Ohio, by C. W. Elliott. Each number to contain five full-size engravings of choice fruit, with descriptions, and short essays on their history, cultivation, &c. To be issued every other month; six numbers completing a volume. Price $2 per year.

We have received the first number of this work. It is very well got up, and cannot fail to be of great service to fruit-growers and nurserymen, especially in the Western States. The descriptions are brief, but perspicuous, and the engravings very correct. We think, however, that many subscribers would prefer paying an extra price if the engravings could be well colored. As it is, the work is valuable, and very cheap, and should receive extensive patronage.

THE FARMERS' ENCYCLOPEDIA.—We have not seen any more of this excellent reprint, since we acknowledged the receipt of the first four numbers; but the American Farmer says, "We are in the receipt of the 8th number of this invaluable work, and we are happy to be enabled to state that it maintains the high character of its predecessors. No farmer or planter who desires to be master of the science of his profession should be without the work."

AMERICAN RAIL ROAD JOURNAL AND MECHANICS' MAGAZINE. By D. K. Minor, New York. 32 pages monthly; $3 per year. This periodical has been more than ten years before the public. It has recently been much improved, and will be found highly interesting and important to all persons in any wise connected with rail roads, steam-boats, and internal improvements generally.

THE SOUTHERN CULTIVATOR.—We beg pardon for our inadvertence in omitting till now to notice this very neat and well-filled quarto sheet. It is published semi-monthly by J. W. & W. S. Jones, Augusta, Georgia—at the very low price of one dollar per year, in advance.

The Letter from "Flora."

We mentioned last month that we had received an excellent letter from Flora. It reached us about the close of that last week of cold drizzling weather, when every body was more or less under the influence of *azure demons*, brought on by the wind from

"The unhealthful east
That breathes the spleen, and searches every bone."

For such a time, her letter was truly excellent; but on reading it now, in the days of sunshine and roses, when all is bright and beautiful, it brings a gloomy cloud over the mind and leaves us sad and melancholy. Fearing, therefore, that it might effect our readers in the same manner, we omit its publication, and trust that on reflection, Flora will appreciate our motives, and forgive, if she does not thank us. We cannot refrain, however, from extracting her appeal to Zelia, and we are sure that lady's mind must be *intensely* pre-occupied if she refuses to comply.

"Come, Zelia, suffer not your gifted pen to slumber in idleness while duty calls to action; do me, at least, the justice to believe me sincere when I say, that a cheerful communication, from your productive mind, would prove a more salutary and effectual restorative to the wretched victim of dyspepsia vexation and disappointment, than all the Homœopathic doses so liberally recommended by our tormenting editor."

We shall select a fine day for that visit!—ED.

Farmers' Gardens and Door Yards.

WILLIAM COBBET was a close observer as well as a bold writer, and notwithstanding his doctrines are highly ultra and heretical, he has said so many good things that a large portion of mankind have adopted his sentiments. Had he lived in this country at the present time, however, he certainly would not have ventured to publish such libellous imputations as are contained in the following remarks on Gardens. "Poverty," says he, "may apologize for a dirty dress or an unshaven face; men may be negligent of their persons; but the sentence of the whole nation is, that he who is a sloven in his garden is a sloven indeed. The inside of a laborer's house, his habits, his qualities as a workman, and almost his morality may be judged of from the appearance of his garden. If that be neglected he is in nine times out of ten a sluggard, a drunkard, or both." Shade of the "handsome Mr. Effingham!" what an amount of "Cooperage" we should have to pay were we to promulgate such slanderous imputations! We were never so fully convinced of the fallacy of these sentiments as during our recent rambles in the country. We dislike personalities, but we cannot forbear mentioning two or three cases in order to show how great injustice would be done to some highly respectable farmers and their families were they to be judged by Cobbet's rule.

There is our highly esteemed friend S., of Macedon, a man of extensive knowledge and good judgment; possessing a beautiful farm, one of the very 'best of wives,' and fine children, but has a *wretched garden*, and the fences are lined with that worst of all weeds, the deadly *Cicuta*, or poison hemlock. Yet no one who knows any thing of S. would call him a "sluggard," and as to his being a "drunkard," so far from it he is one of the most efficient advocates of temperance in the whole country.

Then there is our friend Gen. B., of Wheatland; who owns one of the largest and most beautiful farms in the county; with a dwelling in a situation naturally most delightful; he, too, is a man of more than common intelligence, enterprise and industry, and has a wife and family that would make Cobbet blush in view of his vile imputations; yet the General has a miserable apology for a garden; and as we sat near an open window partaking of the simple luxuries of his table, one very warm evening, the air was filled with the odor—not of roses or honeysuckles, but rank *Burdocks*, growing in the orchard adjoining the house! There is also Gen. H. of the same town, another extensive farmer, and whose praise is in all the papers. His premises, it is true, are neat compared with many, and there is a pretty little flower bed, under the care of his daughter, in front of the house; but all the garden he has is a patch of potatoes and beans, while dead mulberry trees, weeds and rubbish surround the whole. Yet Gen. H. is

neither a sluggard nor a drunkard, and we dare say would have given us a good excuse for his apparent negligence had he been at home; but unfortunately for us, while we were there, he had gone some 20 or 30 miles to spend a couple of days at *fishing!* We might also speak of his neighbor. W. G., but he assured us that his farm was so large and the times so bad that he was obliged to be slovenly about his house and garden. He, also, is one of the most industrious and temperate men of our acquaintance.

So we might go on and fill pages with instances like these, and yet, in spite of all we can say, many will continue to judge by the uncharitable rules of Cobbet, and the only safe course appears to be to reform and submit to the opinions of the majority, hard as it may seem. In fact, we know one of the best farmers in this county, J. A. of Perrinton, who openly avows his belief in these *pernicious* doctrines, and what is more, he acts up to his principles, and by the neatness of his premises and the excellence of his garden, persuades more to believe with him and Cobbet than we can possibly induce to embrace contrary opinions; especially as he has the ladies on his side, and his wife and accomplished daughters, by the neatness and order within doors, confirm the impressions that are made without.

Fine Cherries.

We have never known cherries so abundant in this region as the present season. The first we saw in market were from the garden of Zera Burr, of Perinton, June 22, of the variety called May Bigarreau. Mr. Burr presented us a bunch which contained fifty cherries within a space only three inches in length.

A few days later than the above, Mr. T. H. Hyatt, of this city, presented us a few large fair cherries, not quite ripe, of the Black Heart variety. These, he informed us, grew from innoculations inserted in 1841; only a little more than one year's growth. Thus showing how absurd is the common objection that fruit trees are too long a time before bearing.

SALE OF CHOICE CATTLE.—We invite the attention of amateurs of cattle to the advertisement of Mr. Vail, in another part of this paper. Mr. V. sustains a high reputation as a gentleman, and a breeder of fine cattle; and from documents which accompanied his letter to us, it is evident that his animals are from a herd of very high repute in England.

DISEASE IN SHEEP.—Mr. Church, a farmer near Churchville, in this county, informs us that sheep in that vicinity are much affected with a sort of maligunant catarrh, resembling glanders, which has proved very fatal to some flocks, especially such as were shorn before the settled warm weather. The only effectual remedy that he has found for the disease is, a sort of drops prepared by a horse doctor in the neighoorhood.

THE INFLUENZA.—This fashionable epidemic has been very prevalent in this city for about a month past; and, notwithstanding the late fine weather, the number of *subjects* does not materially diminish. The disease is not very dangerous, but it causes such dullness and dolorous complainings that we were glad to escape from the city, and spend two whole weeks among our kind friends in the country. We found it so pleasant last month that we are determined to be off again immediately. Our friends in Cayuga and intermediate counties may look for us this time.

Use of Salt for Celery.

The Gardeners' Chronicle recommends the use of salt as manure for celery, to be applied by watering the plants with *weak* brine. It says that the growth will be thereby greatly promoted. The experiment is worth trying, but care must be used not to apply too much; and as no exact directions are given, it most be settled by experiments.

Preserving Eggs.

As the season of fresh eggs will soon be over, some of our readers may want to know how to preserve a lot for fall and winter use. Take new-laid eggs and rub them over with lard or butter, then pack them in a box, or keg, with their small ends downwards, and set them in a cool place. The grease stops the pores of the shell, and thus excludes the air; and by resting on the small end, the yolk is prevented from reaching the shell.

An older, but not so effectual a method of preserving eggs is, to pack them, small end downwards, in layers of salt, and keep them in a cool cellar.

Agricultural Fairs for 1843.

New York State,	Rochester,	Sept. 19, 20, 21.
Albany County,	Albany,	
Cayuga "	Auburn,	Oct. 11, 12.
Chautauque "	Fredonia,	Sept. 29, 30.
Columbia "	Hudson,	Oct. 10.
Cortland "	Cortland Village,	Oct. 3.
Erie "	Buffalo,	Oct. 11, 12.
Genesee "	Batavia,	Oct. 4, 5.
Oneida "	Vernon,	
Onondaga "	Syracuse,	Oct. 4, 5.
Ontario "	Canandaigua,	Oct. 17, 18.
Rensselaer "	Lansingburgh,	Sept. 27, 28.
Ulster "	Kingston,	Sept. 20.
Wayne "	Newark,	Oct. 10, 11.

We intend to keep this table standing till the Fairs occur. Secretaries of societies not mentioned above will oblige us by sending notice of the time and place appointed for their Fairs.

A new Remedy for Bugs and Insects.

Among all the inventions and directions for preventing the depredations of bugs on vines, and destroying the various tribes of insects that infest our gardens, we have found nothing so effectual as the use of *whale oil soap.* This is a new chemical compound, the use of which has not been known more than a year or so. The mode of application is in the form of suds, made thus: Dissolve 2 quarts (or 4 lbs.) of the soap in a pailful of hot water, and put this into about half a barrel (15 gallons) of cold rain water. If not found to be strong enough, add a little more soap. Water plants, or sprinkle trees, with this suds a few times, and it will soon kill or disperse the enemy, without doing any injury to vegetation. The soap is for sale at the Seed Store, price 25 cents per quart.

☞ The following lively sketch our readers will at once perceive, is from the same pen as the "Conversation in a Flower Garden," in our last. The change of signature is owing to the choice of the writer: the former communication having been received without signature, one was attached by us. Her articles cannot fail to please as well as benefit our female readers.—ED.

FLOWERS AND THEIR USES.

One morning in the early part of June, Miss Jane Darcy was unusually busy and exact in putting in order the two very comfortable parlors in her father's house. She dusted and re-dusted, placed and replaced every article of furniture which she could move, and exhibited in many ways, an extraordinary solicitude to have all things in their very best order. Apparently, her labor was not quite successful, for she wore a dissatisfied look as she stopped and glanced arouhd her.

Surely, thought she, these rooms never looked so dull before: how old-fashioned they must appear to people from the city. What shall I do? Flowers would give a cheerful look, but I have not even flowers. If I live till another spring I will certainly take Mrs. Shirley's advice and cultivate them. I really am ashamed to ask her for them, but I see no alternative; flowers I must have, and I know she will not deny me.

In a moment she was prepared for the walk, and this time she did not not stay to put on the lemon-colored silk hat, or the lace cardinal, but donned the useful straw bonnet, and with a calico dress and cape, and a basket on her arm, looked as I like to see young girls look, in the country and elsewhere, not too fine to be useful. She was on terms of great intimacy with Mrs. Shirley, and did not wait to knock, but let herself into that lady's parlor. No one was there, but a chair stood by the table on which lay an open book, looking as if it had been lately read and was ready for the next moment's leisure.

Miss Darcy went in search of her friend, who she found busily employed, ladle in hand, in putting the last touches to a bowl of the finest butter. She had never seen her thus employed before, and could not help expressing her surprise.

"My dear madam," exclaimed the young lady, "do you always make your butter with your own hands?"

"I always do," was the quiet reply.

"And why, may I ask, do you not let Mary do it?"

"Simply because I know best how to do it."

"But cannot you teach Mary?"

"Perhaps I might, but I cannot convince her that it is necessary to take quite as much pains as I do, and if I leave my butter to her care it always falls below my standard of perfection, though she cannot perceive it and is pained when I speak of it; and I have been long convinced that she who would have the very best quality of that delightful article, must not herself be too proud for dairy work. But you did not come to see me this morning to talk of butter, and for what is that basket dangling on your arm?"

"Really, I am almost ashamed to say," said Miss Jane, "but I am to have company to-day from the city: that I should not care for, but my Rochester friends are going to bring with them an exquisite young gentleman from New York; a Mr. Rosendell, who lives in Clinton Place, and how he is to be entertained I do not know, for papa will talk nothing but politics, and mama will not talk at all, and then he will find every thing so countryfied."

"And why, my dear, should he not find things in the country countryfied? If he is a sensible man he will not expect or wish to find them otherwise."

"Sensible man!" repeated the young lady, "to speak of a real New York exquisite as only a sensible man! and then, to complete my embarrassment, my cousin Neville has just sent me word that she is coming to spend the whole day; and how such different people are to be entertained I do not know, unless you, who can please every body, come to my help."

"What!" said Mrs. Shirley, "are you not afraid to introduce to your city friends, one who makes her own butter with her own hands, and wears one best gown till it is quite worn out?"

"Oh! Mrs. Shirley, you know you can make yourself acceptable any where, and that my cousin Neville thinks you perfect."

"And I, in return, think her a most estimable woman; and I should not be surprised if your New York beau admired her as much as I do. Let me tell you, Jane, that persons really in the best society, like those who make no pretence to fashion much better than those who aspire to it and fail; but you did not bring that basket to take me home in; come, say what is thy petition, and it shall be granted, even to the half my kingdom."

"Thank you, thank you; it is not so serious a matter: I only want a few flowers."

"The tulips are gone," replied Mrs. Shirley, "and the roses not come; but I think we will contrive to fill your vases; but here is a plate of butter for your dinner, and I will see if I can assist in entertaining your guests; and now for the garden. Here are snowballs, not the less beautiful for being crimson; let us mix them with these irises, blue and purple, they are beautiful contrasted. Here are the peonies; the parsley and fennel-leaved are over; but here is the fine old crimson, the double blush, and here is one which I have raised from the seed myself. See! it is a pale blush with purple veins in the leaves, and the green is very beautiful. You cannot guess how much pleasure it gives me, after having nursed it for several years, to have it turn out so very fine, superior to any I have except the whitleji, which I think the most beautiful of all flowers. I sometimes wish it would bloom at the same time with the moss roses that I might compare them."

"It is really superb," said the young lady; "what a delicate shell-like color in the outer leaves, and how beautifully arrayed are the inner ones, looking as if they rested on a bed of sea-shells. How exquisitely colored around the three hearts! I have seen no color resembling it, unless it may be that of the clear sky just before sunrise. It really looks as though it had taken the sunbeams prisoner."

"You grow poetical, my darling," said Mrs. Shirley; "it is pleasanter looking into the hearts of flowers for poetry than into the hearts of men. No doubt it has literally taken the sunbeams prisoner, and I think that the rays so taken, have good cause to be contented with their resting place. These buds, half open, will look the best in your flower-pots. Put with them these two purple sweet-scented ones, nothing else is worthy to be placed in their company, unless it may be these lemon-colored lilies, rich in shape, color and fragrance. Here are several more varieties of iris, and at the Mount Hope Garden they have several more; the yellow Persian, very delicate and beautiful; the yellow and brown, the splendid white. For blues, here is the Greek valerian and the porcelain flower, and we had almost overlooked this pretty spirea. These will fill your vases and Mary will help you take them home

Now let us look for some to make boquets; how fortunate that my China roses are in flower. A dozen flowers, at least, on this superb crimson, half as many on this pure white, and several on this most lovely blush, the Odorata."

"Surely, Mrs. Shirley, you will not cut these beautiful tea roses for me! I cannot take them from you."

"Yes you can," said Mrs. S." when you know that it gives me more pleasure to part with than to keep them. See, this yellow tea-scented has three buds which I shall reserve for myself. I cannot cut them off, they remain in bud so long and are so sweet. Here is a monthly carnation, which, after having been in bloom all winter, has now six perfect flowers: three shall be yours, and I have a plant of the same kind for Mrs. Neville which she must call for herself. Here are plenty of the smaller geraneum flowers which I prefer to the larger, on account of their fragrance. Now we will look for the heart's ease. What can be more exquisite than these cultivated violets? Here a purple velvet of the richest hue and texture, here a bright yellow, and of variously mixed and parti-colored ones, enough to make nine varieties, all from two sixpenny worth of seed and a little care. We shall find in a southern exposure, a few syringa flowers, perhaps, also, some Scotch roses; let us arrange and tie them up."

The flowers were placed in bunches, the larger ones for the vases and the more delicate and rare in boquets; some very fine asparagus was placed at the bottom of the basket, and little Miss Darcy tripped home with a heart much lightened. We would gladly give an account of the dinner, but we fear to be too tedious. Suffice it to say, that Mrs. Darcy, though no talker, had every thing in abundance and well cooked: that Mr. Rosendell, though a really fashionable man from New York, was well bred and sensible; that he delighted Mrs. Darcy by his good appetite; did not contradict Mr. Darcy in politics; showed no condescension to the ladies; that he sufficiently admired the flowers; and that he struck up such a friendship with Mrs. Neville that he fairly invited himself to her farm-house; and that every body seemed to do and say just the right thing. Little Miss Darcy declared that she had never been so happy in her life, and that she owed it all to the tact and good humor of her friend Mrs. Shirley.

JUNE 27, 1843. SYBIL.

Hiving Bees.—Inquiry.

Shelby, June 22, 1843.

MR. EDITOR,—About two years since I obtained one of Weeks' patent bee-hives, with a book of instructions, and proceeded to put a swarm of bees into it. They stayed over night, and next day "cut stick." My first swarm this year I put into the same hive, thinking I would try one more—and they served me ditto. In the first instance, I believe I rubbed the inside of the hive with bee balm; last time, damped it with salt and water, and rubbed it with sweet-apple tree leaves. The hive is of seasoned clear stuff pine, made in a workmanlike manner, and painted outside. Will you or some of your correspondents tell me, if they can, why my bees ran away, and how I can make a swarm stay in the said hive.

Yours,

C. L. R.

The volume of "Transactions of the N. Y. State Agri. Society," recently published, contains so much that is valuable and interesting, that we heartily wish that all of our readers could have an opportunity of reading it. But as only a few can have that privilege, we shall select some of the most important portions, and transfer them to our pages at times like the present, when most of our correspondents are too busy to write.

The following essay is on a subject of the first importance to farmers, and one that is too little understood. We bespeak for it not only an attentive perusal, but *careful study*:

ON SOILS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

BY DAVID THOMAS, AURORA.

Geologists inform us that soils were chiefly derived from the wear and tear, the disintegration and decomposition of solid rocks. In some tracts of country, the soil is nearly identical with the rock that immediately underlays it, or partakes largely of its nature; but such occurrences are rare in this county, (Cayuga,) So extremely active was the deluge that swept over and around our highest hills, that many a square league of stony strata was entirely buried by materials that drifted from other parts of the country, and which have no resemblance to the rocks they cover.

Favorably for the southern parts of our country, that deluge came from the north, sweeping over a limestone region, and depositing, in its course over our barren State, the rich collection it had made. And here let us stop to consider: if that flood had come in an opposite direction, bringing along the unproductive detritus of the mountains, instead of our fertile fields, and flocks, and herds, we might have witnessed nothing more inviting than scrub-oak plains, and a few wandering deer.

Like other floods, however, its deposites were irregular, as its velocity was increased or retarded—as it whirled into eddies, or rushed onward in its course. Pure clay, indeed, can scarcely be found in this formation; but all the varieties of loam, whether clayey, sandy, or gravelly, occur; and some deep beds of both sand and gravel, are so pure as not to discolor the water into which they are thrown.

Such instances however are rare; and the grinding and mixing so many substances by that deluge, have been eminently beneficial to our farms. No soil is fertile, says Humphrey Davy, "that contains as much as 19 parts out of 20, of any one material or constituent." On the contrary, soils that contain mixtures of many things, are generally very fertile, provided that clay, lime, and sand form a large share of the mass. When you see, therefore, old mortar, the sweepings of the smith's shop, or leached ashes, thrown into the highway, you may safely conclude that the owner is greatly in want of instruction. These are excellent manures, and permanent in their effects.

Perhaps some would ask, why are different things necessary to constitute a fertile soil? Allow me to answer in the language of Dr. Jackson's Geological Report on Rhode-Island: "Chemical science arranges all bodies as electro-positive or electro-negative. The electro-positive are always the alkaline or basic substances, while the acids are always electro-negative when brought in contact with matters of the positive class. If a soil is wholly positive or negative in its nature, it fails to be fertile; and when one power greatly predominates over the other, it is not in its most favored condition. Silex is regarded as an acid, and alumina, lime, magnesia, iron, and the alkalies are its opposites."

According to this view, the soil may be considered as a vast galvanic battery. "It is rendered nearly certain," says an eminent writer, "that manures act by the salts they contain, acting when brought in contact with the earths, in producing galvanic currents," and of course stimulating the plants in their growth. On this subject, however, I give no opinion of my own, because I can comprehend much more clearly the neutralizing effects of acids and alkalies, and the absorbent powers of the different materials. This view may regulate our practice quite as well as the former; and indeed there seems to be nothing discordant between them.

It is not many years since the existence of acid soils was denied or overlooked. The talented Editor of the Farmer's Register in Virginia, was the first to point out the error or oversight; and the subject is now better understood. He furnished no evidence indeed of the presence of uncombined acid; but the circumstantial evidence was very strong and pointed; and, in my judgment, he fairly made out his case. Since the publication of his "Essay on Calcarous Manures," other writers of great respectability, have either adopted his views, or furnished additional and positive proofs of their correctness.

The question may occur, why is not an acid soil as fertile as any other? It is more fertile than any other, for such plants as the Red Sorrel: but not for the plants which are the chief object of the farmer's culture. These generally require a neutral soil—that is, one in which lime, under some form or other, occurs in considerable quantity.

Although clay, according to Dr. Jackson's classification, is arranged as an alkaline earth, yet as such, it is so feeble, that when united *silicia* or sand alone, the mass becomes acid and unfitted for our usual crops. On such lands, Indian corn assumes a yellow sickly aspect, even when it is not injured by stagnant water. And what is the cure? Apply lime enough, and then, says an accurate observer, "the young corn takes immediately a deep, healthy color before there is any perceptible difference in size. The crop will produce from 50 to 100 per cent. more the first year, before its supply of food can have possibly been increased."* And why? Because the poison which has paralyzed it, was destroyed.

It is well known that when magnesia occurs among quicklime, it is often injurious to the land. Such a mixture is called *hot lime*, from its burning alkaline quality,—the magnesia not combining so speedily as lime does with carbonic acid, which would render it mild. Besides, the lime, having a stronger attraction for that acid, will either be served first, or take it from the magnesia till it has got enough. I have seen spots of earth where large heaps had been thrown down to slack, remain barren—as free from vegetation as this floor—for two or three years, although the ground had been carefully scraped over when the heap was removed.

Yet such is the stuff to which the southeastern part of Pennsylvania owes much of its fertility. Formerly, when I lent a hand to that process, it was considered that 30 or 40 bushels to the acre were as much as the land could bear without injury. It was found, however, that rich ladd would bear more than poor land; and in process of time, they discovered that 100 bushels to the acre might be safely and profitably applied to pastures or meadows. The lime was slacked in large heaps; and then, from a cart or wagon on a calm day, it was scattered with a shovel evenly over the grass. It fell among the decaying leaves, which in warm weather yield carbonic acid, and it became mild without injuring the crop.

Some years ago, I published an account of this simple method, believing it superior to that of any other country, and you may judge of my surprise to see it stated in a work of high authority, bearing the date of 1840, that magnesian limestone is unfit for the purposes of agriculture!

Lime, however, possesses other properties beside that of neutralizing acids. One of the most remarkable, is the power to absorb putrescent manures, and to hold the fertilizing essence till it is wanted by the crop, through every vicissitude of the seasons and through indefinite periods of time. There it is locked up; and nothing, at common temperatures, but the energy of a growing plant, can unlock it.†

Lime has therefore been styled the basis of all good husbandry. It stores up the manure that is not immediately wanted, for future use—a kind of *save all*. When the supplies from the barn-yard are spread and plowed into a soil that is nearly destitute of lime, the growing crop catches a part of its virtue; but a very large part escapes, and very little will be left for the benefit of those that succeed. I had been used to such soils until I removed to my present farm; and was then agreeably surprised to see how much more durable were the effects of stable manure. My fields were limed by the deluge.

Unwholesome vapors and villainous smells are also absorbed by lime; and some places, once remarkable for insalubrity, have been changed in their character by liming or marling the fields around them. Nuisances are converted into manures. A striking illustration of this principle is contained in the following account from the Essay on Calcarous Manures.

The carcase of a cow, killed by accident late in the spring, was laid on the ground, and covered by about twenty-five bushels of broken shells mixed with forty-five bushels of earth, chiefly silicious. After the rains had settled the heap, it was only six inches thick over the highest part of the carcase. The process of putrefaction was so slow, that several weeks passed before it was over; nor was it ever so violent as to throw off any effluvia that the calcarous earth did not *intercept in its escape*, so that no offensive smell was ever perceived. In October, the whole heap was carried out and applied to one-sixth of an acre of wheat; and the effect produced far exceeded that of the calcarous manure alone, which was applied at the same time on the surrounding land.

The same valuable work contains a caution to the farmer, which may save him from a dangerous er-

* Essay on Calcarous Manures.

† The following extract from *Liebig's Organic Chemistry* is cited as a parallel case: "An abnormal production of certain component parts of plants, presupposes a power and capability of assimilation, to which *the most powerful chemical action* cannot be compared. The best idea of it may be formed, by considering that it *surpasses the power of the strongest galvanic battery*, with which we are not able to separate the oxygen from carbonic acid."—p. 184.

tor. "He is not to suppose that calcarous earth can enrich a soil by direct means. It destroys the worst foe of productiveness. [acidity,] and uses to the greatest advantage the fertilizing powers of other manures; but of itself it gives no fertility to soils, nor furnishes the least food to growing plants." In other words, it is the strong box for the treasure, but not the treasure itself.

Lime also possesses the property of making sandy soils closer and firmer, and clayey soils lighter. It is a mean between two extremes.

I was conversing, several years ago, with a farmer from a sandstone district, who expressed some surprise that forty bushels of wheat could be raised to the acre. "I don't beleive," said he, "that our land could be made rich enough to produce such a crop —it would lodge." I am entirely of the same opinion, unless lime be employed. Stable manure is too stimulating—the stem grows too rapidly—it is succulent and weak. Whether the lime, by combining with silicia, assists in stiffening the stalk or not, we may be certain, at least, that it yields nourishment as the plant needs it; and that every part will be healthy and properly developed.

Professor Emmons says in one of his Geological Reports, that the most fertile soil formed artificially, by the mixture of different earths, yielded on analysis, 37 per cent. of carbonate of lime. As it is known, however, that lime in some soils soon ceases to be a carbonate,* it is probable that the real quantity of lime was even greater than what was indicated by the analysis. I have seen soils of remarkable fertility, that naturally contained a very large proportion of lime; and there is no danger of having too much when it is properly applied.

In drouth, how are plants supplied with water? After a shower, the soil may be wet enough for a time; but when the sun and wind dry the surface, the moisture rises up from below by capillary attraction, as the melted tallow rises up through the wick of a candle to supply the deficiency above. It is from this circumstance that our crops over deep beds of sand, suffer less in dry weather than where the subsoil is hard and impermeable, showing the benefit of deep and thorough plowing. In either case, however, as the supply begins to fail, and the soil grows drier, its finer parts absorb moisture from the air, and the plants are constantly nourished by this invisible fountain.

But the different constituent parts of the soil act with different degrees of energy.† Of the earths, the silicious is the weakest, and the aluminous the strongest, while lime holds an intermediate position. Not one of these, however, would do by itself. We want sand, because no soil consisting entirely of impalpable matters, is fertile;‡ and we want it to keep the soil loose so that the air can enter its pores, and give up the water which it holds as vapor. Without such assistance, stiff clay or aluminous earth would absorb but little moisture from the atmosphere, because it cakes and shuts out the air. Lime is also a valuable auxiliary in rendering the soil more absorbent, independent of its other indispensable qualities.

But the soil, however it may be tempered and constituted, can never be absorbent in a high degree, without culture. Some crops, indeed, require more of this quality than others. The Indian corn requires more than wheat; and wheat more than the grasses of the meadow. But vegetable and animal matters are more absorbent than the earths; and culture only can properly introduce them into the soil. Even when there, frequent stirring is necessary to keep the ground loose and the pores open, for the free admission of the air and the easy passage of the roots.

Our coats sometimes become spotted with mud. We apply the brush; but the bristles pass over without effecting its removal. What is the reason? The clay which was suspended in the water, forms a glaze or crust. It is just so with the interior of a soil which has laid long unstirred. The clay forms a crust around the inside of all the little cavities, preventing the free circulation of air and the introduction of moist vapor. The fertilizing principles are excluded.

The celebrated TULL, observing the extraordinary effects of high culture, concluded that plants fed on mellow earth; and DUHAMEL adopted the same notion. Their philosophy was *coarse*, but their practice was *fine*. If we were to follow their example, making plenty of fine earth for the plants—not to *feed on*, but to *drink from*, our crops might be greatly increased. One of the chief errors of our husbandry is to cultivate too much land, because it is only half done. Half the quantity with double the work on it, and double crops, would be found more profitable.

[Remainder next month.]

* Essay on Calcareous Manures.

† Davy's Agricultural Chemistry.

‡ "Sand gives little absorbent power."—*Agric. Chem.* "Sand is incapable of absorbing moisture from the atmosphere, or of retaining any valuable vapor or fluid."—*Essay on Calcar. Manures.*

PREMIUM FARMS.

The Massachusetts Society for promoting agriculture, have now for years been in the habit of offering premiums, amounting to several hundred dollars, upon the four or six best managed farms in the State, designating in a series of well-prepared questions, the points which would be inquired into, and sending a competent and well-qualified agent, who should carefully inspect the farm offered for competition and its improvements, and report upon the validity of its claims to notice and reward. The Society this year have awarded six premiums, the highest being $200 and the lowest $25. The excellent report of the Committee, which is drawn up we believe by that accomplished farmer, Mr. PHINNEY, of Lexington, and will be given to the readers of the New Genesee Farmer, announces these premiums, and goes largely into the grounds of the awards. To their report are appended the accounts in detail given by each of his farm management, his improvements and successes. All these are highly instructive, and there cannot be a doubt that these premiums have awakened and must serve to keep alive in all the best agricultural districts in the State, a spirit of emulation, inquiry, and experiment, from which have flowed and will continue to flow, the most valuable results.

The highest premium of $200 has this year been given to FRANKLIN MORGAN, of Palmer, in Hampden county, and from the statements presented, no premium was ever better deserved. We know of no account on record of more successful improvements. We shall give to our readers the account of Mr MORGAN, as it appears abridged in the New England Farmer; and it will be examined by our readers with equal surprise and pleasure.

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FRANKLIN MORGAN'S STATEMENT.

Answers to questions put:

1. My farm contains 145 acres.

2. The soil is loamy except a small part, which is light soil.

3. I plow 7 or 8 inches deep.

4. Effects of deep plowing.—On three acres light thin soil, I have plowed deep, and in 1841, turned in a crop of clover about the time it commenced flowering. The same season I sowed it to buckwheat, and seeded it at the same time with herds-grass, red-top and clover. This season have cut at least 1½ ton excellent hay to the acre.

5. Best method of improving soils.—The loamy soil is mostly put to mowing and pasturing. When the land becomes bound down, I harrow with a heavy drag, about the 20th of April, and seed with the usual quantity of grass-seed. The result has been in some instances, four-fold the quantity of grass. In addition to harrowing, I have usually plowed a strip of the lot, and heaped it up with about 3 pecks of lime to the cord. This compost is spread at the rate of about 12 loads to the acre.

6. I till 21 acres: 12 of oats, manured with 15 loads compost to the acre, and harrowed in with the oats; 6 acres to corn and 3 to potatoes.

7. The manure is applied in compost.

8 I spread on and plow in, about 15 loads to the acre, where I plant, and at planting time put manure and plaster liberally in the hill.

9. Green-sward I plow flat, manure it on the surface, harrow thoroughly and plant.

10. I mow of upland 25 acres. Eight acres this season averaged 3 tons per acre; the remainder something over 2 tons per acre. Herds-grass stood 4½ feet high, and some measured 5 feet 3 inches.

11 and 12. I do not irrigate.

13. Thirty acres lowland mowing. Quality, herds-grass clover and English (or fine grass.) Average, 2 tons per acre. Since 1839, I have very much improved this ground by ditching and manuring; more than doubled the quantity and improved the quality.

14. In the fall of 1839, commenced with 3 acres low, miry ground, so soft that oxen could not get over it. I first made a ditch around, and then carted gravel. Employed three men and two teams (one yoke oxen each) for three weeks. It is now hard. Manured and plastered two years past. Mowed last year for the first time. This season have cut two crops—herds-grass, clover and English grass: should judge about four tons to the acre, both crops included.

15. Had six acres in corn. First spread on ten loads compost to the acre, and plowed it in; then spread the same quantity on the surface, and harrowed thoroughly. Rolled the seed in plaster, and planted three feet apart.

16. Potatoe land prepared as for corn. Cut large potatoes, and plant as near even with the surface as convenient, and haul earth up to them. Planted Long-red or Merinos for stock, and Carter potatoes (so called) for table use.

17. No other vegetables.

18. Twelve acres of oats, wheat and rye mixed, were sowed 20th September. Land planted to potatoes last year, and prepared as for potatoes this season: plowed twice last spring: sowed three bushels per acre; 2½ oats and ½ bushel wheat and rye. Average yield per acre, 40 bushels.

19. Twelve acres laid down to grass 20th April, 12 pounds clover, and ½ bushel herds-grass sowed with spring grain.

20. Means of manure making.—Last year fatted twenty-eight hogs. I furnished them with muck from the banks of ditches, turf from the road-side, weeds and every thing of the kind I could collect. Fatted 66 wethers, which I sold for $585. Also fatted 57 oxen and wintered 51 head cows, steers, and young cattle, and one span of horses. My entire stock was kept on cut feed. The whole labor performed by two men. I am fully persuaded this process is a great saving of fodder—I think at least 20 per cent. Carted from my barn 767 loads manure last spring.

21. Have now 103 head cattle: 24 horses fitting for market, and have 97 sheep. One barn is 123 feet long by 36. One shed 48 feet by 20; one 55 by 20; and one 36 by 19: all the sheds are 16 feet posts. They are all filled with hay: have sold 7 tons besides, and stacked out 32 ox-wagon loads. Oats all put in stables. Have a cellar under the whole barn: can drive in with cart and oxen. Nearly all my manure is covered.

22. Cows part native and part high bred Durhams. I must give the Durham cows very much the preference for the dairy or for fattening. They are quick to take on flesh as soon as we leave off milking them.

23. When raising calves, I put two with one cow, and let them run in the pasture.

24. Have only made butter and cheese for my family's use; and rented the remainder of my cows for $20 each, and keep them through the season.

25. I have 97 sheep—mixture of Southdowns and Bakewells: 30 fat wethers produced 174 pounds clean wool: ewes average about 4 pounds each. In winter, give them privilege of sheds, with plenty of water in the yard. Feed them on cut feed through the winter. Lambs dropped in February and March: did not lose a single one.

26. Kept 28 hogs. Average weight, 329 lbs. Cross of Berkshire and Yorkshire.

27 and 28. Through the summer and fore part of fall, fed them on raw potatoes and apples, with one bushel of corn once in two days, buried in holes in the muck, for them to root over. Carted from my hog-pen last spring, 443 loads manure. See answer to question 20 for material for making manure.

39. Hired help.—Four men employed for nine months each, at $13 per month; and six in addition through haying at $1 per day.

30. Have about 100 apple trees. Part engrafted. Feed all, except choice fruit, to hogs.

31. Have no other fruit trees worth describing.

32. Allow no ardent spirits on the farm.

This farm I purchased in the fall of 1839, for $2,140, with the crops included, which then amounted to only 35 bushels corn, 40 of oats, 120 of potatoes, and not exceeding 25 tons. It had been worn out and run down by bad management; fences and buildings decayed. Had but one small barn, which had been sufficient to receive the crops. I have used this season six tons plaster and ten casks lime. I have not less than 150 tons hay and 20 of rowen—and could have cut 50. FRANKLIN MORGAN.

PALMER, 1842.

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The concluding paragraph of this account is most worthy of repetition. The farm consists of 145 acres, and was purchased in the fall of 1839 for $2,140, with the crops included, which then were as follows:

1839.		1843.	
Indian corn, 35 bushels,		Hay, first crop, 150 tons,	
Oats,	40 "	" 2d crop, 20 "	
Potatoes,	120 "	and could cut 30 more.	
Hay,	25 tons.		

There are now on the place 103 head of neat cattle, 24 horses fitting for market, and 97 sheep. He has likewise 28 hogs, the average weight of which was 329 pounds. We have another fact to notice in his account; that 30 fat wethers produced 174 pounds of clean wool, and that his ewes averaged about 4 lbs. each; and more particularly that his lambs were dropped in February and March, and of the whole number he did not lose a single one. This simple fact, so extraordinary and conclusive, as true as the needle to the pole, indicates the extraordinary care and judgment and fidelity in the whole management. This is what men would call good luck. There is no luck about it, unless it should be pronounced the best of luck to have that sound

wisdom and discretion which lead to such good management.

This, it must be confessed, is admirable farming, so far as its results are concerned. We should be glad to have had the processes by which such a revolution has been effected in so short a period, much more clearly, or rather morefully, defined. How far such a system is applicable to other persons and other places, must depend entirely upon who the persons and what the places are. This should be its certain and direct effect to induce every intelligent and spirited farmer to look into his condition—ascertain the capacities of his farm; and see what can be done and what he can do. We are as certain as of our own lives, from no limited observation, that more than one-half the farms in the country could be made to produce more than three times as much as they now produce, and this at an expense and outlay of capital involving no risk whatever, and sure to be fully repaid with compound interest. But all this requires the same shrewdness which is requisite to success in all other branches of business, and that perseverance and spirit of enterprise, without which no improvement in any thing worth improving, is ever made. We can say with perfect conviction, that we have never known an agaicultural improvement of any kind, made with a proper measure of skill and good judgment, but what has been fully recompensed.

The example here given is extraordinary, and perhaps not to be often expected; but it is not absolutely singular; and instead of cheap prices and over-production, it should stimulate every farmer to call out all his mental and physical energies te deserve as high an honor.

The practice of bestowing premiums in this way, upon farm management, has very much to recommend it. We believe no better form of bestowing premiums with a view to agricultural improvement, could be adopted. We advise, as we have heretofore done, all County Societies to come into the practice. The great difficulty in the case is that of inducing farmers to enter their farms for competition, either through unfeigned modesty or fear of failure of success. The best way of obviating this objection is, to appoint a committee, who shall travel through the county once or twice in a season, and whether invited or not, select such farms as they choose to visit, and ask leaveto examine them, and then award the premiums independently of any application, according to their own honest judgment. This, it may be relied on, would quicken the pulse of the most sluggish farmers, when they saw their neighbors honored with a flattering notice and a liberal premium. H. C.

"Valuable Cows" and "Tough Stories."

A writer in the June number of the Albany Cultivator, who signs himself "A Connecticut Boy," attempts to be very witty about a short article which he found in our paper for May, copied from the Ct. Farmers' Gazette, headed "Valuable Cows;" he says:—"I am so easy of faith that I am able to swallow almost every thing I find in print; but now and then I meet with something that will not go down no way I can fix it." He then repeats the story, and after "rubbing his eyes and reading it over again," says, "the more I studied the worse I was, and finally, after every effort to go it, and even pinning back its ears and greasing it, *a la Crockett*, am unable to swallow the *critter*. Still, the fault may be in my faith and not in the story: if so, let the good old land of steady habits have the glory of possessessing two cows 'unrivalled and unequalled.'"

Now, as the story did not originate with us, we do not feel bound to prove its accuracy; but having given it a place in our columns and thereby done serious mischief to one of our readers, we are induced to offer a few remarks for his relief. We apprehend, however, that the difficulty which the Connecticut Boy experienced, was not so much the fault of the *critter* itself, as the manner in which it was served up; for we presume he would have swallowed it, hoof, horns and all, if it had come through another channel. We admit that the story is a remarkable one, but it came from a highly respectable source—gave name, place, and date, and therefore is entitled to credence; and as to being "unrivalled and unequalled," any boy who has read agricultural papers for two or three years past, knows that it is not so. In proof of this remark, we will quote a few examples from the Cultivator, for the Connecticut Boy to try his gullibility on; and when he has swallowed them we are nite sure that ours will go down with perfect ease.

But let us first look at the story—it says there was made between the 4th of March and the 8th of December, from two cows, besides supporting (supplying) two persons, 439 lbs. of butter and 1,254 lbs. of cheese. The time stated is nine months and three days—39 weeks and 5 days, or 278 days; embracing all the best of the milking season. Now let us see what rule there is for estimating the usual rate of decrease in quantity of milk during the season, and also the ordinary product in butter and cheese.

In the very same number of the Cultivator, we find just what we want, quoted from Sir John Sinclair, who says the Ayrshire dairy cows average about as follows:

"First	50 days,	24 quarts	per day,	1200
Second	50 "	20 "	"	1000
Third	50 "	14 "	"	700
Fourth	50 "	8 "	"	400
Fifth	50 "	8 "	"	400
Sixth	50 "	6 "	"	400–4000

'It is equally certain that 14 or 15 quarts of that milk will generally yield 22 or 23 ounces of butter; and that from 110 to 120 quarts of that milk with its cream, will yield 24 lbs. of full milk cheese."

This is within a small fraction, at the rate of 1 pound of butter to 10 quarts of milk, or 1 lb. of cheese to 5 quarts.

Now let us take last years' volume of the Cultivator, and on page 10 we find an account of a cow in England that gave 26 quarts of milk per day, and of so rich a quality that it made 22 lbs. 3½ oz. of butter in a week.

Now, if we apply the above scale of decrease, and estimate the product for 278 days, we shall find it to be 546 lbs. of butter, or 1,092 lbs. of cheese. Double this quantity for the two cows, and deduct what two persons would use, then compare this with our Connecticut story and see which is the easiest to "swallow."

Again, on page 35, same volume, it is stated that the celebrated cow, Blossom, gave 36 quarts of milk per day, yielding 17 lbs. of butter per week! This milk, it seems, was not as rich as usual, else not well churned. According to our sale of diminution above, this would give in 278 days about 400 pounds of butter; and if as good as the average for cheese, the product would be 1,158 lbs.! Don't that beat old Connecticut!

Again, volume 8, page 32, it is stated that a cow near Syracuse gave 21 lbs. of butter per week, besides supplying a whole family with what milk they wanted. Now, apply the scale again and swallow this also. Is it not a "tough story?" Then if you have room for more, turn to page 93 and you will find a list of some half a dozen "valuable cows," most of which tell as big stories as our Connecticut one, and yet they must all be swallowed in these days of wonders. The Connecticut Boy will evidently need to "rub his eyes" more yet before he will get them entirely open. He may possibly succeed in *nine days*.

ROCHESTER PRODUCE MARKET.

Wheat,	$1 15 *a* 1 18	Hay, ton,	$7 00 0 00	Eggs, doz.	10 *a* 12
Corn,	40 *a* 44	Wood,cord,	2 25	Tallow, lb.	7
Barley,	31 00	Salt, bbl.,	1 38 1 50	Beeswax,	25
Oats,	20	Hams, lb.,	5 6	Wool,	20 30
Flour,(ret.)	5 50	Shoulders,	4	Sheep Skins,	38 50
Beans,	75 1 00	Pork, bbl.	11 00	Green H'ds, lb.	3
Peas,	50	Beef, cwt.	3 00 3 50	Dry Hides,	6
Potatoes,	20 25	Lard, lb.,	6	Calf skins, gr'n.	6
Cloverseed,	6 50 7	Butter,	8 10	do. dry,	12½
Timothy,	1 75 2 00	Cheese,cwt.	4 00 5 00		

JULY 1

SILK WORM EGGS.

SILK GROWERS can be supplied with eggs of the Orange variety that were saved from a *perfectly healthy crop*, at $3 per ounce, by applying to JAMES W. CHAPPELL.
Lima, Livingston county, N. Y., July 1, 1843.

SHORT HORN DURHAMS.

THREE or four Durham Heifers, one and two years old this spring, and three young Durham Bulls from about 10 to 13 months old, are offered for sale by the subscriber. Some of these animals are out of his imported Bull, Duke of Wellington, bred by Thomas Bates, Esq., of Kirkleavington, England. The stock got by Wellington, will carry its own recommendation. The two year old heifers, which are for sale, will soon be in calf, either by Wellington or by his son, Meteor; which latter animal is now about twenty two months old; and he is out of the subscribers' imported heifer Duchess: she was also bred by Mr. Bates, and got by his celebrated prize bull, Duke of Northumberland. Enquire of A. Clockie, on the farm, or of the subscriber at his residence in Troy.
Troy, July 1, 1843. (2m) GEO. VAIL.

CUMMINGTON SCYTHE STONES.

THE attention of farmers and all who use whetstones throughout the United States, is respectfully invited to an article now manufactured from the celebrated "Robbins' Ledge," by J. S. Stafford & Co., Cummington, Mass. The decided superiority of these stones is acknowledged by all who have given them a trial, and the grace demand for them from those sections of the country into which they have been introduced, is the best recommendation that can be given them. The public are requested to satisfy themselves in regard to the merits of the above article, by giving it a trial. For sale at the manufactory; also, by *Wood & Folger* 219 Pearl-street; *William H. Wight & Co.* 100 John-street; and *Clark & Willson*, 7 Platt-street, New York; *Humphry & Langsing*, and *Van Alstyne & Son*, Albany; *Kellogge & Co., Warren, Lesly & Hart*, Troy, N. Y. and will be furnished at the principal villages throughout the country; also, for sale at the *Rochester Seed Store*.
Orders addressed to FRANCIS BATES, Agent, Cummington, Mass. will be punctually attended to. June 1, 1843.

Meteorological Observations,

MADE AT THE ROCHESTER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE BY L. WITHERELL, FROM MAY 26 to JUNE 25, 1843.

Lat. 46 deg. 8 min. Long. 77 deg. 51 min., west from Greenwich. Elevation above tide 506 feet. 8 miles south of Lake Ontario.

	Therm.				Barometer.			Wind.		Clouds.		
										Kind—	Kind—	
Day of month.	At sun rise.	½ h. afternoon.	1 h. aft.-sunset.	MEAN.	At sun rise.	½ h. afternoon.	1 h. aft. sunset.	Forenoon.	Afternoon.	Forenoon.	Afternoon.	Rain Gage.
26	55	76	62	64.66	29.20	29 19	29.15	s	s E	rain	shower	.54
27	57	59	52	54.5	.10	.27	.35	W	W	"	cumulus	.10
28	48	59	52	52.83	.43	.40	.35	NW	NW	cumulus	clear	
29	47	60	49	51.33	.33	.30	.28	"	"	cirrus	cirrus	
30	43	62	42	48.33	.28	.20	.20	"	N	"	rain	.52
31	39	42	40	39.83	.26	.29	.35	"	NW	rain	& snow	
1	36	46	39	40.16	.45	.50	.51	"	"	snow	cumulus	
2	35	61	48	51.83	.64	.50	.25	"	N E	cirrus	"	
3	56	51	48	50.33	.10	.24	.3	S W	NW	rain	rain	
4	46	82	52	59.83	.30	.08	.10	S E	S W	"	"	
5	45	50	44	46.16	.29	.29	.29	N E	N E	"	"	
6	44	59	47	59.66	.38	.40	.50	NW	NW	cumunlus	"	.50
7	42	61	54	54.83	.64	.64	.62	"	"	"	cumulus	.04
8	57	68	70	67.16	.59	.53	.25	S E	S E	rai	rain	.12
9	70	84	67	70.5	.25	.25	.18	S W	W	"	cumulus	
10	51	50	50	49.66	.20	.18	.25	NW	NW	"	rain	
11	47	60	54	54.83	.30	.39	.45	N	"	"	cumulus	.68
12	54	76	60	64.16	.55	.50	.35	W	W	clear	"	
13	59	77	63	66.66	.29	.17	.07	S W	"	rain	rain	
14	61	74	58	61.5	.08	.08	.20	W	"	cumulus	cumulus	
15	44	60	54	54.16	.32	.49	.44	"	N E	"	"	
16	53	60	60	57.33	.24	.32	.38	N E	N W	rain	"	.18
17	51	63	55	56.5	.42	.50	.50	"	"	stratus	clear	
18	52	70	58	59.83	.58	.55	.52	N	N	clear	"	
19	51	80	66	67.16	.52	.56	.52	E	E	cumulus	"	
20	60	86	65	70.66	.57	.60	.57	S W	S W	"	cirrus	
21	62	88	70	74.	.59	.55	.56	"	W	clear	clear	
22	66	85	76	74.16	.50	.45	.30	W	N W	cumulus	cumulus	
23	69	83	70	74.	.35	.32	.30	"	W	rain	"	
24	69	80	66	69.44	.25	.15	.26	"	N W	shower	rain	.97
25	58	71	64	66.5	.27	.35	.37	"	W	cumulus	cumulus	

Range of Ther. for the past month, 43 deg. do. Bar. .56 deg.
Monthly mean, May 1843, 53.77. Do. 1842, 53.33. Do. 1841, 52.51. Do. 1840, 57.97. Rain guage, May, 1844, 1.73 inch. Do. 1842, 2.16 inch. Do. 1841, 1.17 inch. Do. 1840, 4.13 inch.

REMARKS.

"Now the bright morning star, day's harbinger,
Comes dancing from the east, and leads with her
The flowery MAY, who from her green lap throws
The yellow cowslip and the pale primrose."

MAY 26—Rain this morning. Thunder shower this afternoon at 4
" 27—Rained last night and this morning.
" 31—Cool—rain and snow.
JUNE 1—Snowed this morning about sunrise. The mercury in the thermometer down to 36—the same last June on the morning of the 11th. Ice, then, the thickness of half a dollar.
JUNE 3—The weather very unsettled.
" 4—Thunder shower this evening.
" 7—Cold and dreary weather. Solar halo P. M.
" 8—Thunder shower a little north of this place this P. M.
" 9—Snow-ball and Peony in bloom.
" 10—Red and white clover in bloom.
" 13—Roses in bloom.
" 14—Lightning this evening.
" 16—Strawberries ripe.
" 17—Rain this morning. Cleared off this afternoon. Green Peas in market. Wheat beginning to head.
" 19—Common Locust in bloom.
" 23—Cherries ripe.
" 24—Remarkable shower about 11, A. M.

The weather has been very fine for about a week. Vegetation comes forward rapidly. Corn is very small—so it was last year at this time. But the crop of corn was pretty good last year—so we need not despair of a good crop this year.

REVIEW OF THE MARKETS.

ROCHESTER June 30.—The price of wheat has advanced considerably during the past month, owing to the limited supply in the country, and the prospect of a light crop. It now sells readily at $1 18. Flour, at wholesale, is somewhat fluctuating; from 5 31 to 5 40. WOOL is now the chief article of traffic with our farmers, and the trade is quite brisk, although at moderate prices. The following appear to be the present rates:

Saxony fleeces in good condition,	28 to 31 cents,
Merino, full blood,	25 to 28 "
" ¾ to ¾ "	20 to 25 "
Common to ¼ "	16 to 26 "

NEW YORK, June 28.—FLOUR.—The arrivals are rather light. The sales of Genesee are 5 75; Michigan and Ohio flat hoops, 5 62½ and 5 69; round hoops, 5 00a5 56½. But little Ohio in first hands; the prices are from 5 31½a 5 37½.

GRAIN.—A sale of 2,500 bushels of Illinois wheat has been taken at 1 22½ cents, and the balance of the lot of 7,000 bushels at 120 cts. The market is now quite bare again. The market for corn is rather quiet: sales of 5,000 bushels North River and Jersey at 55a56 cts; 2,000 Maryland 54a56. Oats are dull at 29 cents. Rye without change, 68½ cents.

PROVISIONS.—1,000 kegs Ohio Lard, prime, has been sold at 6½ cents; 500 fair to prime 5½a6¾; Ohio prime pork is selling at 9 38 and mess at 11 50; beef is dull, city mess 8 37½; pickled hams 4½a6 —shoulders 3½a3¾; Western, smoked, 5¼, do shoulders 3¾.

ASHES.—Pearls are dull at 5 25. More doing in Pots; price 4 62½.

MONTREAL, June 27.—Flour—Holders are firm, but there are but few sales; superfine, 5 25a5 31; Canada, fine, 5 00a5 25—looking up.

PITTSBURG, June 23.—Flour—Sales at the river and from wagons at 4 00a4 06½, and from stores 4 12½a4 25 per bbl.

Wheat 65a70; Corn 25; Oats 13a14 cents a bushel.

WOOL.— ommon, 18; ¼ blood, 20; ½ blood, 22; ¾ blood 24; ¼ blood 26; full blood 28; prime 30 cts. cash per lb.—*Sun.*

CINCINNATI, June 22.—Flour sells readily at 4 00, and wheat at 85 cents.

CHICAGO, June 23.—Wheat is quick at 85 to 86 cents. A few sales have been made at 87 cents. Flour is firm at from 4 25 to 4 50. Corn has declined to 37 cents, and Oats have fallen to 27.—*Express.*